



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL AGENDA

Wednesday 27 November 2019, 6.00 p.m.

Council Chamber, Trinity Road, Cirencester

NOTES

(i) Questions Arising on the Agenda

If any Member has any questions regarding any substantive item contained within the Agenda, he/she is requested to give advance notice of such question to the Officer originating the report or to an Officer of the Democratic Services Section so that a full response can be made available either prior to, or at, the Meeting. If no such advance notification is given, a full response to any question cannot be guaranteed at the Meeting.

(ii) Mobile Phones/Pagers

All mobile phones/pagers should be **SWITCHED OFF OR SET TO SILENT MODE BEFORE** the start of the Meeting.

(iii) Recording of Proceedings

The public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings may be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know before the start of the Meeting.

Recording/filming should not be disruptive or distracting to the good order and conduct of the Meeting. To assist with this, an area of the Meeting venue will be designated from which proceedings can be recorded/filmed, and 'roaming' around the venue while recording is not permitted. The Chair will exclude anyone whose behaviour is disruptive.

Recording/filming should only be of Members and Council Officers, and not any members of the public (unless they are formally addressing the Meeting or unless specific permission has been given by those individuals).

For further information, please read the Notices displayed inside and outside the Meeting venue and/or speak with the Committee Administrator.

(iv) Committee Administrator

If any Member has any general questions about the Meeting or the associated agenda papers, or is unable to attend, he/she is asked to contact Democratic Services on 01285 623005.

Distribution:

All Members of the Council

Nigel Adams
Head of Paid Service

19 November 2019

COUNCIL: 27 NOVEMBER 2019

AGENDA

(1) **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence.

(2) **Declarations of Interest**

(a) To receive any declarations of interest from Members under:-

(i) the Code of Conduct for Members; and/or

(ii) Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (any Councillor who has Council Tax payments remaining unpaid for at least two months must declare an interest and not participate in any matter affecting the level of Council tax or arrangements for administering the Council Tax).

(b) To receive any declarations of interest from Officers under the Code of Conduct for Officers.

(3) **Minutes** - To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 25 September 2019.

(4) **Announcements from the Chair, Leader or Head of Paid Service**

(5) **Public Questions**

Council Procedure Rule 10 - Not more than fifteen minutes allowed for written questions to be put by members of the public on any matter in relation to which the Council has any power or duties or which affects the District.

(6) **Member Questions**

Council Procedure Rule 11 - Not more than fifteen minutes allowed for written questions to be put by Members on any matter in relation to which the Council has any power or duties or which affects the District.

The following questions have been submitted:-

(a) **Question from Councillor Stephen Andrews to Councillor Rachel Coxcoon, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Climate Change and Energy.**

In July 2019 the Council declared a state of Climate Emergency and committed to carbon and energy targets.

At its last meeting in September 2019 the Council approved that funding of £70,000 be provided to Publica for the recruitment of a Strategic Climate Change Manager in this Financial Year. At the same meeting, the Council also approved funding of £105,000 for specialist consultancy aimed at establishing the Council and District emissions baseline, a credible emissions reduction trajectory and a district-wide renewable energy study, again in this Financial Year.

Given the urgency associated with addressing what has been agreed is an Emergency, would Cllr Coxcoo please provide an update on the progress being made to achieve these outcomes within this Financial Year?

- (b) Question from Councillor Nikki Ind submitted to: Councillor Mark Harris, Cabinet Member for Car Parks and Town and Parish Councils

Given the recent Climate Emergency declaration, as well as the car parking plans for Cirencester, are there any plans for developing with the County Council reliable, regular rural public transport services for the Cotswolds? Services which will allow rural residents to travel to work and shop without the need for a car?

- (c) Question from Councillor Stephen Hirst submitted to Councillor Rachel Coxcoo, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Climate Change and Energy

Energy efficient affordable homes can be more expensive to build when compared with traditional build houses, and this situation will have a negative effect on the viability of sites when S106 Agreements are put together. This will in turn result in developers being able to offer a lower number of affordable homes which will in turn affect the delivery of affordable homes of all types in the district. For instance, what will the effect be on the Siddington development if many affordable homes are built to energy efficient specifications?

Has the administration calculated the effect of energy efficient homes on our housing delivery achievement and what measures are being employed to mitigate any reduction in the number of affordable homes due to effects on site viabilities.

- (d) Question from Councillor Stephen Hirst submitted to Councillor Rachel Coxcoo, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Climate Change and Energy

In all but one of our Market Towns there have been large numbers of homes built, in some instances there have been increases of over 30% in the number of houses that these communities have to accept. At the same time rural communities need new homes to ensure that the current local facilities are sustainable into the future.

Exception housing developments are one way to provide rural sustainability and there are first class examples of such developments in Bibury and North Cerney involving up to 12 affordable homes per development. Is the current administration planning to work with local housing associations to seek and develop a good number of rural sites where affordable homes can be built to maintain local sustainable communities?

- (7) **Petitions (if any)**

Items for Decision

- (8) **Environmental Services In-Cab Technology System (Recommendation from Cabinet – 4 November 2019)**
- (9) **Treasury Management Mid-Year Performance Report 2019-20 (Recommendation from Audit Committee – 14 November 2019)**

Other Matters

(10) **Schedule of Decisions taken at Cabinet – 7 October and 4 November 2019.**

(11) **Schedule of Decisions taken at Audit Committee on 26 September and 14 November 2019.**

(12) **Notice of Motions**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, the following Motions have been received:-

(a) **Motion 12 of 2019/20 - Position Statement on Glover Review**

Proposed by Councillor Clive Webster, Seconded by Councillor Joe Harris;

This Council notes that:

- (i) The Government recently commissioned a review of National Parks and AONBs, led by Julian Glover; and that the findings of this Landscapes Review were published in September 2019.
- (ii) The Cotswolds AONB, which already has Conservation Board Status, receives approximately 23 million visitors each year, with tourism worth around £900m to the local economy.
- (iii) The Cotswolds Conservation Board is an appointed body, with no directly elected members.
- (iv) The Landscapes Review identifies the Cotswolds (with a combined Dorset and East Devon area) as "strong candidates, alongside The Chilterns, to be considered for National Park status"; and it further states that the lack of a single Local Plan is a "challenge" for the Conservation Board.
- (v) The Landscapes Review recommends extra responsibilities and funding for all AONBs to recover lost biodiversity and protect and enhance 'National Landscapes', with actions to be developed and delivered through partnership working.

This Council further notes, however, that:

- (i) Cotswold District is 80% covered by the Cotswolds AONB, and that the appeal of this AONB is as much informed by its built character as its natural landscape.
- (ii) Cotswold District is not entirely reliant upon tourism for its economy - it is also a thriving area for a wide range of businesses and technologies, with more than 40 established employment sites, many of which are located within the AONB.
- (iii) GFirst LEP's draft Local Industrial Strategy identifies that Gloucestershire (which contains 64% of the Cotswolds AONB) has a higher spend on research and development than the national average (3.3% GVA vs 2.4%) and a higher innovation activity level than the national average (70.3% of local businesses vs 55.1%, the second highest percentage of all LEP areas).
- (iv) Despite being a 'hot housing market', Cotswold District has a chronic affordability crisis.
- (v) Further, National Park designation tends to introduce a 'price premium' on housing while limiting the potential to develop high-skill, high-wage, innovation-driven employment.

- (vi) While the Landscapes Review recommends a single statutory planning regime for the Cotswolds AONB, it does not consider the new planning tools and powers implemented by the Government in its February 2019 update to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- (vii) The Landscapes Review ignores the concerns raised by the Chairman of the RSPB in March 2019 that failings in the current governance arrangements of National Parks risk many of them losing their UN Nature Reserve status.
- (viii) The Landscapes Review also ignores the value of National Landscapes to contribute to sustainable energy generation, in line with local and national ambitions to address the climate breakdown emergency.

This Council therefore resolves to write to Natural England, the new MP for The Cotswolds Constituency (once elected) and relevant Government Ministers (once appointed) to:

- (i) Support the recommendations of the Landscapes Review to increase biodiversity recovery and enhance the 'national landscape' of the Cotswolds AONB through partnership working and increased Government funding.
- (ii) Confirm that Cotswold District Council is taking a leadership role among the Cotswolds AONB Local Authorities to find quicker, cheaper and easier methods to deliver these benefits.
- (iii) Support the creation of a National Landscapes Service to act as a co-ordinator, facilitator and ombudsman for National Parks and AONBs.
- (iv) Advise that Cotswold District Council has concluded that, on current evidence, the case for the Cotswolds AONB to be considered for National Park status is very weak - on the basis that doing so is likely to:
 - take 10-20 years of costly consultation and technical work to deliver;
 - exacerbate the chronic affordability crisis;
 - limit or reduce economic, research and development potential;
 - not significantly increase the benefits of tourism; and
 - hinder the Government's ability to deliver 300,000 new houses annually in the UK;

and the Council therefore urges that no further work be undertaken on this proposal.

- (b) Motion 13 of 2019/20 re parking spaces allocated to new build apartments and houses

Proposed by Councillor Richard Morgan, Seconded by Councillor Sue Jepson;

This Council notes that the number of parking spaces allocated to new build apartments and houses that have only communal parking provision is subject to national guidance; and it is our understanding that such guidance is as follows:

- (i) Bedsit and 1 bed apartments = 1.25 (unassigned spaces per dwelling) or 1.50 (assigned spaces per dwelling).
- (ii) 2 bed apartments = 1.50 (unassigned spaces per dwelling) or 1.75 (assigned spaces per dwelling).

- (iii) 3 bed apartments = 1.75 (unassigned spaces per dwelling) or 2 (assigned spaces per dwelling).
- (iv) 1 & 2 bed terraced house = 1.5 (unassigned spaces per dwelling) or 1.75 (assigned spaces per dwelling).
- (v) 3 bed terraced house = 1.75 (unassigned spaces per dwelling) or 2 (assigned spaces per dwelling).

This Council also notes that:

- Many parts of the Cotswolds are very rural, and public transport is limited in some areas, so residents are highly dependent upon car ownership.
- Some residents have commented that some new housing developments do not have enough car parking spaces in relation to the size and scale of the development. This is particularly visible in communal parking areas where pavements and roads are often blocked by parked cars.

The Conservative Group notes that the Lib Dem administration at CDC has indicated they may be reopening the Cotswold local plan.

Should the local plan be reopened, this Council resolves to:

- review its policy on communal parking and the ratio between dwellings and parking spaces.
- to amend its policy and ask developers to provide a higher number of parking places per dwelling than national guidelines stipulate, with a suggested ratio as follows:
 - (i) Bedsit and 1 bed apartments = 1.75 (unassigned spaces per dwelling) or 2.00 (assigned spaces per dwelling).
 - (ii) 2 bed apartments = 2.00 (unassigned spaces per dwelling) or 2.25 (assigned spaces per dwelling).
 - (iii) 3 bed apartments = 2.25 (unassigned spaces per dwelling) or 2.5 (assigned spaces per dwelling).
 - (iv) 1 & 2 bed terraced house = 2 (unassigned spaces per dwelling) or 2.25 (assigned spaces per dwelling).
 - (v) 3 bed terraced house = 2.25 (unassigned spaces per dwelling) or 2.5 (assigned spaces per dwelling).

(13) **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

To consider, and if so agreed, to

RESOLVE that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and Press be excluded from the Meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph (3) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the said Act (Information relating to financial or business affairs) and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information concerned.

Items of Exempt Business for Consideration and Decision

- (14) **Property Matter – Cirencester**
- (15) **Property Matter – Moreton-in-Marsh**

(END)